

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING OF
November 18, 2005**

**Conference Call
Olympia, WA**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Ellis Casson, Commission Chair Pro Tem; Kathy Baros Friedt, Commission Chair; Dallas Barnes; Deborah Sioux Cano-Lee; and Jerry Hebert. A quorum was present.

Staff: Marc Brenman, Executive Director; Tanya Calahan, Executive Assistant to the Commissioners; Dixie Shaw, Operations Manager; and Traci Friedl, Assistant Attorney General.

Guest: No guests were present.

(Audio tape one - side one)

OPENING AND WELCOME

Commissioner Casson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27-28, 2005 meeting. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Hebert made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27-28, 2005 meeting. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Hebert asked for a transcript of the October 27, 2005 public forum. Because having a court reporter prepare a transcript is costly, Tanya Calahan will provide a copy of the audio tape of the forum to Commissioner Hebert.

Tanya Calahan and Commissioner Hebert spoke about the need for action item review at the end of Commission meetings to be a more deliberative process instead of rushing to adjourn the meeting. The

Commissioners will take more time to review these items so all action items are duly noted. Commissioner Friedt expressed that it was important to go on record to show the community that the Commission followed up on requests.

CASE CLOSURES

Commissioner Hebert made a motion to approve case closure recommendations. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commissioners discussed systemic discrimination issues. Commissioner Hebert expressed concern about lack of follow up by the Commission after cases are withdrawn. Commissioner Friedt asked about a threshold for deciding whether or not to move forward with systemic or Commission initiated complaints. There currently isn't one. The Commissioners will discuss systemic and Commission initiated complaints at a future work study session.

DECEMBER 15, 2005 PUBLIC FORUM

Commissioner Lee reported on the status of planning the December 15, 2005 public forum that will focus on issues facing Native Americans living in urban communities such as Seattle. She invited the Seattle Office of Civil Rights, the Seattle Human Rights Commission, and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

Commissioner Friedt will chair the December 15-16, 2005 Commission meeting.

(Audio tape one – side two)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Commissioners discussed case production for the current month. Investigator David Hamilton's high case production was noted.

Commissioner Hebert made a motion to approve the Executive Director's Report. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

SPONSORSHIP OF "ON THE BORDER: MILITIA CONFERENCE"

Commissioners Friedt and Lee exited the conference call because of other commitments. Commissioners Casson, Barnes, and Hebert discussed whether or not the Commission should sponsor the upcoming Militia Conference.

Commissioner Barnes expressed concern that other agencies such as local law enforcement and the State Patrol are not sponsoring this event. The Commission would be the only agency sponsoring it.

Commissioner Hebert noted that the Governor is supportive of the conference and has issued a statement. He will provide a copy to the Commissioners and Marc Brenman.

Marc Brenman explained that he is speaking at the conference. He also shared that the Commission's sponsorship would be "in name only," and that the Commission would not provide any funding for the conference. The Commission's participation is relevant because of potential race discrimination issues relating to militia activity. This is a training opportunity.

(Audio tape two – side one)

The motion to approve sponsorship of the conference failed. Commissioner Hebert went on record to express his disappointment about letting the community down by not sponsoring this event.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Tanya Calahan reviewed the meeting's action items. They are attached to these minutes for reference.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Y. Calahan
Executive Assistant to the Commissioners

**Commission Meeting
Action Items
November 18, 2005**

1. Schedule the topic “Systemic and Commission Initiated Complaints” for discussion at an upcoming Commissioner Work Study Session.

Status:

2. Tanya Calahan will prepare an audio tape of the October 27, 2005 Commission meeting for Commissioner Hebert.

Status:

3. Commissioner Barnes requested that staff include specific dollar amounts or percentages in budget reports; including specific amounts that the agency is under spent and overspent.

Status:

4. The Commissioners will discuss the topic “Investigator Recruitment Process” at an upcoming Commissioner Work Study Session.

Status:

5. Tanya Calahan will send the December 15, 2005 public forum flyer electronically to the Commissioners and Marc Brenman for distribution.

Status: Marc Brenman distributed the flyer electronically to Commissioners, staff, and other interested parties.

6. Commissioner Hebert will forward Governor Gregoire’s statement regarding the militia to all Commissioners and Marc Brenman.

Status: Commissioner Hebert distributed the statement on November 18, 2005.